

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 69

### Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bonilla, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chiu, Chu, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)*

May 12, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 69—Relative to Health Care District Month.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 69, as amended, Chávez. Health Care District Month.

This measure would recognize the essential role that health care districts have in the State of California and would proclaim the month of May 2015 as Health Care District Month in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Health care districts are public entities that provide
- 2 community-based health care services to residents throughout the
- 3 state; and

1 WHEREAS, Health care districts were created after World War  
2 II to address a shortage of access to acute hospital care for many  
3 areas of the state, particularly the rural areas of California; and

4 WHEREAS, The first health care district was formed in 1946  
5 and the first district hospital opened in 1947. Today, there are 78  
6 health care districts in California, and 40 health care districts  
7 currently operate 43 district hospitals. Their primary mission has  
8 not changed, which is to provide health care services to the  
9 communities that created them; and

10 WHEREAS, District hospitals account for 27 of the state's rural  
11 hospitals and 20 of the state's critical access hospitals; and

12 WHEREAS, District hospitals provided \$54 million in charity  
13 care in 2012, and offered financial support to community programs  
14 focused on the health and well-being of the children and adults  
15 living in the health care districts; and

16 WHEREAS, Fifty health care districts operate in either a health  
17 professional shortage area, a medically underserved area, or a  
18 medically underserved population area; and

19 WHEREAS, Health care districts collectively provide a wide  
20 range of services, which include acute care, emergency care, skilled  
21 nursing and long-term care, community and rural health clinics,  
22 ambulance services, adult day care, senior housing and nutritional  
23 support, chronic disease management, health education, medical  
24 transportation, home health, and hospice; and

25 WHEREAS, Health care districts cover 49,354 square miles,  
26 provide services in 40 counties, employ over 32,000 employees,  
27 and handle more than 4,000,000 patient visits annually; and

28 WHEREAS, Health care districts are formed by the will of the  
29 people, with board members locally elected and accountable to  
30 their communities. The health care districts are often supported in  
31 part by local tax dollars in order to improve community health;  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Health care districts serve as an integral part of  
34 the "safety net" for the state's underinsured and uninsured  
35 residents. In 2012, health care districts treated just over one million  
36 Medi-Cal beneficiaries, which represents 10 percent of the  
37 statewide total of Medi-Cal beneficiaries; and

38 WHEREAS, Each health care district is uniquely focused on  
39 the specific needs of the community it serves. Health care districts  
40 utilize varying revenue streams, workforce sizes, services offered,

1 and geographic locations to cater to the health services most needed  
2 by their communities; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the essential  
5 role that health care districts have in the State of California and  
6 proclaims the month of May 2015 as Health Care District Month  
7 in California; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
9 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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